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Patent for Next-generation Cancer Antigens Survivin Peptides Approved in Japan and Australia

tella, Inc. (Head office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President & Representative Director: Yuichiro Yazaki) signed a contract in June 2011 with Bioimmulance Co., Ltd. (Head office: Sapporo City, Hokkaido; President & Representative Director: Yuji Togashi) for exclusive licensing rights concerning survivin peptides, which are new cancer antigens, pulsed dendritic cell (DC) vaccine Vaccell® in nine regions. The patent concerning survivin peptides submitted by Bioimmulance Co., Ltd. has now been approved in Japan and Australia, and the exclusive licensing rights have been established in Japan.

Survivin peptides, which are patented in Japan and Australia, are a newly developed peptide (MHC class II restricted peptide) with a site that can activate cancer antigen-specific helper T-cells.

Previous cancer antigen peptides (MHC class I restricted peptides) activated only killer T-cells (Cytotoxic T-cells). But survivin peptides can also increase the number of cancer antigen-specific killer T-cells by efficiently activating helper T-cells. In addition, this patent covers a hybrid long peptide that combines MHC class I and class II restricted peptides and is now under development. There are hopes that this will be a next-generation cancer antigen peptide that can stimulate an even more powerful immunological response to cancer. This peptide may be suitable for clinical use with the DC vaccine Vaccell® for the treatment of cancer of the melanoma, colon, breast, lung, and other parts of the body.

For a research project outsourced by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), the first phase of exploratory voluntary clinical research was performed at Hokkaido University and other locations concerning this hybrid long peptide. This research was adopted by the NEDO's Translational Research Promotion Project in 2008 for the purpose of developing technologies that promote to bridge the basic research and clinical research.

Bioimmulance Co., Ltd. has submitted patent applications concerning these survivin peptides in nine regions including Japan and Australia. In accordance with its contract with Bioimmulance, tella can exercise its exclusive licensing rights in each region. tella will conduct a clinical research going forward with the aim of early practical applications of survivin peptides.

tella will continue to perform R&D activities involving new cancer antigens and acquire associated intellectual property. The goal is to give the large number of cancer patients more treatment options.

This matter will have only a negligible effect on results of operations in fiscal 2014.